

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

February 1, 1938

LOAN EXHIBITIONS: The month of February at the Gallery will be rich in Loan Exhibitions of a great variety. The work of contemporary American artists in a number of fields will be shown and there will be included, paintings, sculpture, all mediums of prints and a series of textile designs.

CLEVELAND ARTISTS: Of especial interest will be a group of thirty-five oils by Cleveland artists. It is the ninth season that this exhibition has been circulated all over the country and because of the standard of the paintings, it has become one of the most eagerly awaited groups in this field. The selection of the artists is based upon the fact that they have all exhibited consecutively at the Annual Exhibition at the Cleveland Museum held each May, and it is circulated by the museum itself.

Henry G. Keller, the senior teacher of painting in Cleveland, is the leading inspiration of this group and although not all artists have studied with him, his influence of fine draughtsmanship and technique is easily recognizable. The subject matter is exceptionally varied and the point of view leans towards sound painting with an inclination to avoid the startling qualities of too advanced forms. A similarity in the colour scheme used will be noted, and this is understandable in a so closely allied group of painters. Keller will be represented by two canvases, an early "Memories of Spain" which is full of warmth and atmosphere, and a much more characteristic "Equestrian Clown", which shows his linear treatment, sense of pattern and humor.

Clarence Carter, who has several representations in the permanent collection and who recently has received the recognition of a purchase by the Whitney Museum, has contributed two canvases. The first, "Sentimental Bouquet", is typical of his fine flower pieces, while "Industrial Forms" appreciates the fine mass and proportions of grain elevators, with the strong cubes of freight trains contrasting with the smooth volumes of the elevators. Particularly lovely is the landscape, "Winter at Sweet Springs" by Carl F. Gaertner, which is flooded with luminous light and which with its fine handling of forms is reminiscent of Cezanne.

"Summer Bounty" by E. Bart Gerald is a heavily loaded table with a heterogenous grouping of doves, cherry branches, fruit, fish, and an old fashioned compote, but the pattern is structural and there is a beautiful play of colour. Paul V. Ulen's "Self-Portrait" has strength and vigour, with a sweeping landscape background, and there is a touch of humor in the position of the hand which holds a small field flower. An exotic touch is introduced by the richly coloured amaryllis in "Flowers and Landscape" by Paul B. Travis, and affords a sharp contrast to the wide expanse of luminous sky and the rolling country-side. There is a poetic charm to the double portrait of Ladislav Novotny's "Adriatic Serenity" and an impersonal handling that suggests Puvis de Chavannes.

Other well known Cleveland artists are represented in this group which will open on Sunday, February 5th, and continue through the month. Mr. Gardner will lecture on the artists and their work on Wednesday Evening, February 9th.

SCULPTURE BY ARCHIPENKO: For the month of February, Gallery 19 will be installed with a group of thirty sculptures by Alexander Archipenko. This is the first large showing of his work in Kansas City and will be of especial interest.

Archipenko was born in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1887. His training was obtained chiefly in Paris where he became dissatisfied with the academic point of view of the studios there and achieved his very personal expression by means of independent study. He exhibited

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there first in 1903 with the fauve and cubist group and many of the critics of that time compared his sculpture to the paintings of Matisse. He has been in America since 1923 and has become a naturalized citizen. For ten years he maintained a studio in New York, teaching thousands of pupils and has also taught at Mills College and the University of Washington on the Pacific Coast. At present he is the head of a school in Chicago. It is interesting to note that the Germans and the Japanese have been the most enthusiastic collectors of his work. When he established his studio in Chicago, C. J. Bulliet, the well-known critic and art writer, hailed him as the world's greatest sculptor since Rodin. He has a great enthusiasm for the Middle West, having said at one time that art students from this section of the country do three times more work in a month than is done by their fellow students in the East.

Archipenko has a tendency to feel rather than to see his sculpture. For the most part his conceptions are abstracted, and often he literally turns the human figure inside out, presenting concave masses where the curves of nature are convex. His approach has never remained static. He was one of the first sculptors to emphasize line and form after the softening influence of the Impressionists and, with Picasso, was one of the leaders in exploiting abstractions. Later came a period of reflecting surfaces in which metal, glass, and polished wood achieved harmonious variations of the human form. In his latest work, there is a tendency to abandon the emphasis on surface and to return to materials and his superb craftsmanship. In his teaching he trains his students to acquire first the command of their mediums, and then to search for an individual self-expression. He believes that there is not chance or accident in the production of a masterpiece.

On Friday evening, February 25th, Mr. Archipenko will be the guest of the Gallery and will give a lecture in Atkins Auditorium on modern sculpture and his own work. This lecture will be open to the public without charge.

AMERICAN ARTISTS GROUP: On Saturday, January 29th, a group of prints by the American Artists Group, including etchings, woodcuts, lithographs, and stencils, will open in Gallery 16 and will remain on view until Friday, February 18th.

This exhibition serves as an interesting cross-section of contemporary American art. The approach runs the gamut of all possible tastes, as there is realism, abstraction, even surrealism, and the subject matter of landscapes, humorous and genre prints, animals, industrial scenes, and marines will have an universal appeal. Perhaps the most interesting technique from the point of view of medium is the stencil, which has been used extensively only in the twentieth century, and by means of which as many as twenty colours may be introduced into the finished plate.

Such well-known artists as Rockwell Kent, John Marin, J. Lankes, Adolf Dehn, Ernest Fiene, Wanda Gag, Emil Ganso, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, George Biddle, Reginald Marsh, Kenneth Hayes Miller, and Waldo Pierce are included in this exhibition.

DECORATIVE FABRIC EXHIBITION: For two weeks beginning February 1st, Gallery 15 will be hung with a most interesting group of modern fabrics which are adaptations of rare old documents of the textile art. These have been developed by the bureau of style and design of Marshall Field & Company, and for the most part, are copies of the 18th century originals. They reflect the trend in interior decoration which is one of elegance and refinement and the group includes chintzes, linens, mohairs, cretonnes, Toiles de Jouy, and satins. Called Fieldcrest Fabrics, these textiles are circulated by Mrs. Blanche Byerley of New York.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: For the month of February, "The Juggler" by Walt Kuhn, recently presented to the permanent collection by the Friends of Art, will be featured as the Masterpiece. It is one of the latest studies of the theatre for which the artist is so well-known, and many critics feel that it is one of his finest. It is powerful and forceful, yet the painter has used the most simple means to develop his theme of the vaudeville player who is about to toss the white balls into the air. The character of the man is admirably expressed, his lithe, wiry strength, his keen, watchful eyes

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and the large yet sensitive hands. The colour is particularly telling, with a neutral ground which is a fine foil for the rich blue of the costume and the pallor of the flesh tones.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: Following the lecture of January 26th on Early Indian Sculpture, on February 2nd Mr. Sickman will cover later Indian Sculpture of the medieval period, that is, from the tenth to the sixteenth century. The Gallery collection is especially rich in examples from this period, notably the magnificent Dancing Siva of bronze. While the early period may be considered the classic age, it is in the medieval sculpture, devoted mainly to Brahmistic cult figures, that the most characteristic Indian forms are developed.

On Wednesday Evening, February 9th, Mr. Gardner will discuss the artists and the paintings in the Loan Exhibition of Cleveland Artists.

On Wednesday, February 16th, and the following week, the 23rd, the lectures will be devoted to a survey of Chinese Sculpture and will be given by Mr. Sickman. Beginning with a brief account of sculpture before the introduction of Buddhism, the first lecture will cover the great period of archaic religious sculpture up to its full development in the 8th and 9th centuries. The second lecture will consider the mature style of the T'ang period and its subsequent decline, ending with the brief revival of the 12th and 13th centuries which has left such magnificent monuments as the wooden Kwan Yin in the Temple Room. The Gallery is especially fortunate in being able to illustrate almost all important phases of Chinese sculpture with examples of outstanding merit. The lectures will relate most particularly to this material which can so easily be studied in the original.

STEPHENS COLLEGE ART EXHIBIT: For the week of February 6th to 12th, Classroom A will be installed with an exhibition of student art from Stephens College. Although the art department does not train the students specifically to become professional artists, the aim is to give the theoretical principles of art in relation to the life of the campus and the community. In addition to the art work, an exhibition from the dramatics department will be included, showing the models, sketches, and costumes for the play "Chantecler" which Maude Adams recently produced at the College.

The opening of the exhibition will be marked by a special concert to be given on Sunday afternoon, February 6th, by the Stephens Little Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mr. James Adair. The concert will be given at three o'clock and with Dr. B. D. Gauntlett, pianist, and Miss Elizabeth Fretz, cellist, as soloists. The exhibition and concert are sponsored by the Stephens College Club of Kansas City and the public is cordially invited to both.

FRIENDS OF ART: The study class of the Friends of Art will meet in the Library on Wednesday morning, February 9th, and at that time Mr. Gardner will discuss the Loan Exhibition of Cleveland Artists. On February 23rd, the discussion will be on Old Silver, and examples in the permanent collection will be used to illustrate the hall marks which distinguish the various periods.

LITTLE MUSEUM ACTIVITIES: On Saturday afternoon, January 22nd, the Mythology Class of the Kansas City Junior College and the Junior Classical League of Westport High School were guests of the Little Museum Staff at a performance of a marionette play, "Phaeton and Apollo". The play, which is based on the story of these two mythological characters as told by the series of tapestries in Kirkwood Hall, was written by Miss Lindsay Hughes of the Gallery staff, and the parts were taken by members of the Little Museum.

THE GAME TRAY: A new game called "Find Another" has been added to the Game Tray. In this a print of a masterpiece by some artist represented in the collection is given to the child. It is then his object to locate a work in the Nelson Collection painted by this same artist. When he has found and correctly identified ten masterpieces, he is entitled to a small colour print. The Game Tray has become one of the most popular of Saturday activities - no enrollment is necessary and any child visiting the Gallery on Saturday may take part in these games.

C A L E N D A R

Wed., Feb. 2, 8:00 - Lecture - Indian Sculpture - Mr. Sickman
 Sun., " 6, 3:00 - Concert - Stephens College Orchestra
 Wed., " 9, 11:00 - Friends of Art Study Class
 Wed., " 9, 8:00 - Lecture - Cleveland Artists - Mr. Gardner
 Sun., " 13, 4:00 - Concert - Sponsored by Lois Black Hunt
 Virginia Snyder, pianist.
 Wed., " 13, 8:00 - Lecture - Chinese Sculpture - Mr. Sickman
 Sun., " 20, 3:30 - Concert - Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota
 Wed., " 23, 11:00 - Friends of Art Study Class
 Wed., " 23, 8:00 - Lecture - Chinese Sculpture II - Mr. Sickman
 Fri., " 25, 8:00 - Lecture - "Creativeness" - Alexander
 Archipenko
 Sun., " 27, 4:00 - Concert - Sponsored by Lois Black Hunt
 and Edna Forsythe

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art
 Kansas City, Missouri

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